

# VIRGINIA HUD LINES

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E-Briefs from the Richmond Office of the U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development

800/842-2610, extension 3742

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[www.hud.gov/virginia](http://www.hud.gov/virginia)

## MAX THE TAX (REFUND)!

Santa Claus is back at the North Pole and Punxsutawney Phil is back in his lair, but, as April 15<sup>th</sup> approaches, IRS tax men – and women – are on the march.

Bad news for some, maybe, but not for families eligible for the Earned Income Tax Credit, a refundable federal income tax credit for low-income working individuals and families. Last year, more than 21 million eligible taxpayers collected more than \$36 billion in EITC payments for a refund of about \$1700 a family. But, the IRS estimates, millions more who were eligible didn't apply. Help is on the way. In December HUD Secretary Jackson and IRS

Commissioner Everson signed a "landmark agreement" under which HUD will enlist the help of the thousands of housing authorities, local governments and real estate professionals to increase the number of eligible taxpayers who apply for the credit. The IRS has a special Web page -

<http://www.irs.gov/individuals/article/0,,id=130102,00.html> - to help folks determine if they're eligible. Even better, local EITC coalitions around the Commonwealth help spread the word. For more information about an EITC coalition in your area or about free tax preparation for someone you know who might be EITC eligible, contact the Virginia Community Action Partnership's Carolyn Spohrer at [csphorer@vacap.org](mailto:csphorer@vacap.org) or 804/644-0417.

## UNDERWRITER UPDATE

HUD's Philadelphia Homeownership Center and the Virginia Mortgage Lenders Association will provide the latest information about FHA underwriting, appraisals and the disposition of HUD-owned properties from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. on March 23<sup>rd</sup> at the Richmond Convention Center. The session is free, but space is limited, so register today with [Virginia\\_f\\_Holman@hud.gov](mailto:Virginia_f_Holman@hud.gov) or call her at 800/842-2610, extension 3729.

## SPARC-ING HOMEOWNERSHIP

VHDA has awarded 38 groups a total of \$113 million under the 4th round of its Sponsoring Partnerships & Revitalizing Communities (SPARC) program to boost homeownership among low-income Virginians. Financed by mortgage revenue bonds, SPARC allocations are loaned at from one to one-half a percentage point the rate for VHDA's first-time homebuyer program. Winners include the Better Housing Coalition, Highland Park Restoration Corporation, Piedmont Housing Alliance, Southside Community Development & Housing, Central Virginia Housing Coalition, Community Housing Partners, Peninsula Community Development Corporation, Townebank Foundation, Virginia Beach Community Development Corporation, KSI Services Inc., Manassas Housing

Trust Fund, HOPE Community Builders, South River Development, Southern Virginia Development Corporation, Telamon, Blue Ridge Housing Development, the Accomack-Norhampton, Chesapeake, Danville, Fairfax, Little Ten, Norfolk, Portsmouth, Richmond and Waynesboro redevelopment and housing authorities, the cities of Alexandria, Newport News, Norfolk, Pulaski, Virginia Beach and Arlington, James City, Loudoun, Prince William, Sussex and York counties. The groups, said Don Ritenour, VHDA managing partner of development, "are in the best position to design programs that combine" available resources and "make every dollar count." Since its inception, the SPARC single family program has allocated some \$287 million.

## BRIEF BRIEFS

Saying they'll "help public housing residents on their way to self-sufficiency and homeownership," HUD Secretary Jackson has awarded a total of \$451,522 in

Resident Opportunities Self-Sufficiency grants to housing authorities in Danville, Norfolk, Richmond and Roanoke. . John G. Kines of Prince George re-elected as Chairman and Harold H. Bannister of Fredericksburg re-elected as Vice Chairman of Virginia Commission on Local Government. . In the three years since VHDA and DHCD completed the Statewide Housing Assessment in 2001, reports VHDA Director Susan Dewey, VHDA has helped more than 15,000 families buy homes, conducted more than 1,200 homeownership classes, employed Low Income Housing Tax Credits to finance almost 14,000 rental units and trained more than 900 real estate professionals to conduct homeownership classes. . Nominations of "Virginia's Most Endangered Historic Sites" are

due at Department of Historic Resources by March 16<sup>th</sup>. . Register by March 18<sup>th</sup> with [Ramona.chapman@dhcd.virginia.gov](mailto:Ramona.chapman@dhcd.virginia.gov) for March 22<sup>nd</sup> & 23<sup>rd</sup>

"Getting Started in Affordable Housing" workshop at Sheraton Oceanfront in Virginia Beach. . Virginia Association of REALTORS Chief Executive Robert Authier leaves after 24 years with Association to lead Massachusetts Association of REALTORS. . Competitive applications for CDBG funds due at Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development on March 23<sup>rd</sup>. . Roanoke Redevelopment & Housing wins 2004 "Spirit of the Community" Award from Roanoke Valley United Way. . Federal Emergency Management Agency awards \$1 million to help raise 21 Hampton homes above Chesapeake Bay flood plain. . Between now and April 30<sup>th</sup> DHCD now accepting applications for grants under SHARE Shelter Support Grant, SHARE Federal Shelter Grant,

Child Services Coordinator Grant and Child Care for Homeless Children Program as described at [http://www.dhcd.virginia.gov/HOUSING/Shelter\\_Operations.htm](http://www.dhcd.virginia.gov/HOUSING/Shelter_Operations.htm)

## GOVERNOR AWARDS RURAL HOUSING FUNDS

Noting the "strong connection between successful economic development and quality housing conditions," Governor Mark Warner has announced the award of \$3.6 million in HOME funds that are expected to rehabilitate some 130 homes under a new Rural Virginia Housing Rehabilitation Demonstration Program

administered by DHCD. Organizations winning grants of up to \$250,000 each included Albemarle Housing Improvement, Bay Aging, Elderhomes, the Fauquier Housing Corporation, Housing Partnerships Inc., PEOPLE Inc., Rural Areas Development Association, Southeast Tidewater Opportunities Project, Telamon, Cumberland Plateau, Lee County and Waynesboro housing authorities and Alleghany, Amelia, Fluvanna, Halifax, James City, Louisa and Smyth counties. The locally-designed program, said DHCD's Bill Shelton, allows for repair of "homes that have fallen through the funding cracks."

## BRIEF BRIEFS TOO

HUD Secretary Jackson announces new guidelines to public housing authorities to help "individuals with disabilities or families who have a disabled member in their search for accessible housing" using Housing Choice Vouchers. . U.S. Senator George Allen says Peninsula Habitat for Humanity has won \$50,800

and Wytheville Redevelopment & Housing has won \$99,000 under competitive Affordable Housing Program of the Federal Home Loan Bank Board of Atlanta. . Inspired by Cradle to Cradle (c2c) International Design Competition held in January, Roanoke City Manager Darlene Burcham and Roanoke City Council adopts ordinance establishing property tax exemption for installation of solar energy technologies in new and existing homes. . April 30<sup>th</sup> is deadline

for grants of up to \$25,000 to be awarded by DHCD on first come, first served basis under Shelter Housing Minor Rehabilitation Program for emergency shelters and transitional housing. . Faith-based Metropolitan Housing Corporation breaks ground for Janie's Hope, a \$5 million, 76-unit Section 202 complex for the elderly in Danville. . Roanoke Times reports that businessman Jack Watts forms Team Virginia to help ease the "day-to-day" stresses faced by the southwest Virginia families of active reservists and National Guardsmen. . HUD Richmond okays 180-unit, \$16.8 million Oakland Chase Village apartment complex in Henrico County. . Residents of Norfolk's Olde Huntersville coalition trying to save John T. West School which, Norfolk's first public high school

for blacks. . Roanoke Mayor C. Nelson Harris and Blue Ridge Housing Development Corporation cut ribbon on model home designed by Virginia Tech students in City's award-winning *Southeast*. . *by Design* neighborhood. . Emory Rodgers succeeds Jack Proctor as DHCD's Deputy Director for Building and Fire Regulation. . Virginia Main Street to present Milestone Awards for historic preservation in Warrenton March 30<sup>th</sup>. . SBA names John Langford, President of Aurora Flight Sciences in Manassas, as Virginia's 2004 Small Business Person of the Year. . Call 804/524-5849 to register for 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Southside Virginia Housing Conference at Virginia State University in Petersburg on March 19<sup>th</sup> sponsored by Virginia Cooperative Extension and VHDA.

## DON'T FORGET

To register for HUD Richmond's March 15 and March 16<sup>th</sup> *Single Family Housing Development* workshop at the Richmond Marriott by contacting [ahall@tda-inc.org](mailto:ahall@tda-inc.org) or calling 910/277-1275.